

REMARKS

I. The Rejection

Claims 1 and 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as anticipated by Eyer et al. (US 5,982,411) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as obvious compared with Eyer et al.

Claims 4 – 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as unpatentable (obvious) compared with Eyer et al. as applied to claim 3, and further in view of Yu (US 5,410,709).

2. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2 and 10 - 12 have been objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim but have been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

3. The Amended Claims Should be Allowable

The references cited by the Examiner, as well as the corresponding rejections and remarks have been reviewed.

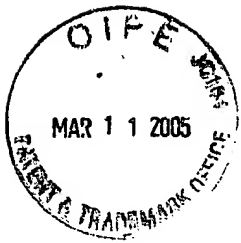
Claim 1 has been amended to include the language of allowable claim 2 and, therefore, claim 2 has been cancelled. Claim 1 should therefore now be allowable as was indicated by the Examiner with respect to claim 2.

Rejected claim 3 has been rewritten so as to again be dependent on claim 1 and, in view of this amendment and apparent allowability of claim 1 as indicated above, claim 3 should now also be allowable.

Minor grammatical or punctuation changes were made in claims 4, 6 and 7.

Previously rejected claims 4 – 9 now all are dependent on claim 3, directly or indirectly, and should be allowable for the same reasons as claims 1 and 3.

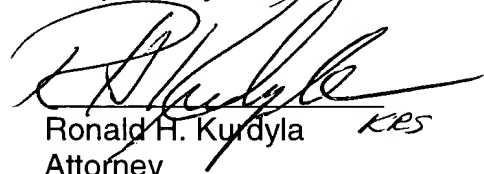
Each of claims 10 – 12 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the respective claims from which they were previously dependent. Since they now are in compliance with the Examiner's indication of allowability, claims 10 - 12 should now be allowable.



CONCLUSION

The invention now claimed in previously rejected claim 1 is that of allowable claim 2. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that all of claims 1 and 3 – 9 dependent directly or indirectly on claim 1 should be allowed. Claims 10 - 12 have been rewritten in independent form in the manner required by the Examiner to be allowable. Reconsideration and allowance of all of pending claims 1 and 2 – 12 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

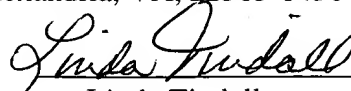

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Hon. Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450; Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450 on:

3/9/05
Date


Linda Tindall